

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on January 19, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 42, 1/9/2007; SB 116, 1/9/2007;
SB 135, 1/9/2007; SB 161, 1/11/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:00:01 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 42

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:12 **SEN. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN (R), SD 6**, opened the hearing on **SB 42**, Revise economic development programs.

Proponents:

00:03:35 Ric Edwards, President, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)

EXHIBIT (bus13a01)

00:06:08 Thomas Bump, Timeless Seeds

EXHIBIT (bus13a02)

00:07:36 Paul Tuss, Executive Director, Bear Paw Development

00:09:16 Cheryl MacArthur, Executive Director, Montana Development Center (MDC)

EXHIBIT (bus13a03)

00:09:50 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

00:10:15 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telephone Association

00:11:22 Tracy Haulkin, Farmers Union Insurance

00:13:11 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers Association

00:14:19 Charles Brooks, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce and Yellowstone County

00:14:46 Carl Schweitzer, Bozeman and Kalispell Area Chambers of Commerce

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

00:15:24 Sen. Brueggeman

HEARING ON SB 116

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:16:58 **SEN. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN (R), SD 6**, opened the hearing on **SB 116**, Security freeze authority for consumer credit reports.

EXHIBIT(bus13a04)

Proponents:

00:24:26 Pam Bucy, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice (DOJ)

00:29:23 Claudia Clifford, Advocacy Director, AARP

00:33:08 Janet Harper, President, Montana Consumer Credit

00:34:15 Mary Williamson, Self

EXHIBIT(bus13a05)

00:36:15 Derf Johnson, Montana Public Research Group

00:37:10 Kelsen Young, Self

00:43:16 Joe Mazurek, Consumers Union of U.S., Inc.

EXHIBIT(bus13a06)

00:46:56 Bruce Spencer, Montana Automobile Dealers Association

Opponents:

00:50:49 Eric Ellman, Consumer Data Association

01:02:09 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association

01:04:12 John Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

01:06:10 Phil Maxwell, Three Rivers Communication

EXHIBIT(bus13a07)

01:09:49 McKee Anderson, Montana Food Association

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:11:06 Sen. Smith to Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

01:11:57 Sen. Cocchiarella

01:12:15 Sen. Brown to Sen. Brueggeman

01:18:46 Sen. Ryan to Phil Maxwell, Three Rivers Communication

01:20:03 Sen. Ryan to Sen. Brueggeman

01:22:47 Sen. Balyeat to Joe Mazurek, Consumers Union

01:26:11 Sen. Balyeat to Eric Ellman, Consumer Data Association

01:31:07 Sen. Esp to Sen. Brueggeman

01:34:09 Sen. Esp to Eric Ellman, Consumer Data Association

01:34:36 Sen. Cocchiarella to Eric Ellman, Consumer Data
Association

01:35:36 Sen. Squires to Eric Ellman, Consumer Data Association

01:37:06 Sen. Squires to Sen. Brueggeman

01:39:01 Sen. Cocchiarella

01:39:31 Sen. Smith to Sen. Brueggeman

01:40:29 Sen. Aryan to Sen. Brueggeman

01:41:07 Sen. Ryan to Sen. Brueggeman

01:42:37 Sen. Esp to Sen. Brueggeman

01:44:32 Sen. Cocchiarella

Closing by Sponsor:

01:45:38 Sen. Brueggeman

HEARING ON SB 135

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:57:43 **SEN. MITCH TROPILA (D), SD 12**, opened the hearing on **SB 135**, Equity in gift certificates.

[EXHIBIT \(bus13a08\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus13a09\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus13a10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(bus13a11\)](#)

Proponents:

02:05:57 Lee Baerlocher, Department of Revenue (DOR)

02:08:50 David Hunter, DOR

02:14:37 Julie Flynn, Affordable Housing Advocate

02:17:23 Judy Smith, Community Housing Development

[EXHIBIT \(bus13a12\)](#)

02:19:24 Betsy Hands, Affordable Housing Group, Montana Home Ownership Network

02:20:08 Terry Kendrick, Policy Institute

[EXHIBIT \(bus13a13\)](#)

02:20:30 Beth Brenneman, Montana Advocacy Program (MAP)

Opponents:

02:20:59 Brad Griffin, Montana Retail Association (MRA)

[EXHIBIT \(bus13a14\)](#)

02:26:32 Dennis Lopach, Montana Retail Association (MRA)

02:28:51 McKee Anderson, Montana Distributors Association

02:31:07 Charles Brooks, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce

02:31:59 Ronda Wiggers, Great Falls and Helena Area Chambers of Commerce

02:33:38 Bruce Spencer, Montana Automobile Dealers Association
(ADA)

02:35:04 Jon Bennion, Montana Area Chambers of Commerce
Kalispell and Bozeman

02:36:11 Riley Johnson, National Federation Association (NFA)

Informational Testimony:

02:36:52 Cort Jensen, Consumer Protection Tax Division,
Department of Justice (DOA)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:37:44 Sen. Esp to David Hunter, DOR

02:38:21 Sen. Esp to Pat Murdo, LSD

02:39:04 Sen. Balyeat to Brad Griffin, MAP

02:43:30 Sen. Ryan to David Hunter, DOR

02:43:50 Sen. Ryan to Lee Baerlocker, DOR

02:44:38 Sen. Ryan to Jon Bennion, MCC

02:46:10 Sen. Brown to Cort Jensen, DOA

02:47:15 Sen. Brown to David Hunter, DOR

02:48:35 Sen. Smith to David Hunter, DOR

02:50:20 Sen. Cocchiarella to David Hunter, DOR

02:51:18 Sen. Cocchiarella to Riley Johnson, NFA

Closing by Sponsor:

02:53:16 Sen. Tropila

Discussion:

02:53:46 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:55:37 **SEN. RICK LAIBLE** (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on **SB 161**, Revise captive insurance laws.

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus13a15)

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus13a16)

Proponents:

03:00:00 John Morrison, Montana State Auditor (MSO)

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus13a17)

03:05:17 Amy Minto, Attorneys Liability (ALPS)

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus13a18)

03:06:20 Dick Brown, Senior Vice President, MHA and Association of Montana Health Care Providers

03:07:46 Amy Minto for Susan Witte, Allegiance Life and Health and Insurance Company

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony:

03:08:10 Garth Jacobson,

03:09:23 Frank Cote, American Health Plans

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:10:02 Sen. Tropila to Sen. Laible

Closing by Sponsor:

03:10:50 Sen. Laible

Discussion:

03:11:16 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:20 P.M.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

VC/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus13aad.pdf](#))